



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

OF PUBLISHING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS. George E. Burch, M.D., F.A.C.P., Henderson Professor of Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 40 pages, \$2.75.

This illustrated booklet of 40 pages which was Dr. Burch's presidential address before the Central Society of Clinical Research in 1953, is an excellent summary of many of the problems arising in presentation and writing of scientific facts. Investigators and authors are classified as "the self-plagiarist, the self-aggrandizer, the obsessive writer, and the ones with tubular vision." Types of readers are "the critic," "the scanner," and "the summary addict." Editors are criticized as often being too critical and dictatorial, and editorial boards as composed of those who are board-o-philics or "men of distinction" rather than active, vigorous investigators. There is general criticism of the sensationalism regarding scientific material in the lay press and a note about the "miracle monger."

Burch's criticisms are well taken and lead one to conclude with him that improvement in scientific writing can come "only from demanding the highest integrity and performance among all concerned with writing scientific papers."

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ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS—Diagnosis and Treatment of the Acute Phase of Poliomyelitis and Its Complications. Edited by Albert G. Bower, M.D. The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1954. 257 pages, \$6.50.

This volume commands respectful reading because its conclusions are based on the team care of 18,000 acute cases of poliomyelitis. The authors' concern is for the most part with the acute phase of the disease, the essentials of diagnosis and early treatment, the recognition of the various complications which appear during the early stage, and especially the management of emergency situations which may then arise.

Respiratory paralysis occurring in both the bulbar and spinal forms of the disease is dealt with in detail with respect not only to the clinical considerations which point to respiratory inadequacy but also with regard to the various instrumental measures and laboratory studies which may be utilized to determine ventilatory capacity and gas exchange.

Few would question the value of tracheotomy in a considerable proportion of those with respiratory failure and impaired airway but these authors recommend this operation with an enthusiasm which is somewhat greater than that which currently obtains throughout the country. There are excellent discussions of the indications for this operation, of the technique of operation and of special methods which are necessary for successful after-care in the tracheotomized patient.

Methods for temporary or long continued artificial respiration are described with comment on the many mechanical appliances which are available for this purpose.

A final chapter is devoted to applying to the use in a small hospital of the methods of diagnosis and treatment previously described. This section does not succeed in the simplification of this matter so as completely to guide the hospital in which only an occasional patient with this disease may be admitted.

It is extremely doubtful that all the many problems in the care of poliomyelitis can be routinized within the resources of other than well equipped institutions with adequately trained personnel. Nonetheless this book contains many valuable suggestions and much good advice which can be profitably read by any physician responsible for the care of patients with poliomyelitis, whether the patients be many or few.

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MANUAL OF CLINICAL MYCOLOGY—Second Edition. Norman F. Conant, Ph.D., Professor of Mycology and Associate Professor of Bacteriology; David Tillerson Smith, M.D., Professor of Bacteriology and Associate Professor of Medicine; Roger Denio Baker, M.D., Chief, Laboratory Service, Professor of Pathology; Jasper Lamar Callaway, M.D., Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, all from Duke University School of Medicine; and Donald Stover Martin, M.D., Chief, Bacteriology Section, Communicable Disease Center, Chamblee, Georgia. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1954. 456 pages, 202 figures, \$6.50.

During the decade just past, the need for additional information concerning fungus infections has become apparent to physicians in all fields of medicine. Seemingly, there has been an increase in the incidence of mycotic infection. With more laboratories having facilities for the isolation of pathogenic fungi, naturally more cases are being found. It is known also that antibiotic therapy can be responsible for a change in the fungus flora of the body.

The second edition of the "Manual of Clinical Mycology" by Conant et al. is the latest and the most complete book now available on the subject of mycotic infections. This edition brings together recent advances concerning epidemiological, immunological and therapeutic information as well as presenting concise, well-written descriptions of the symptomatology, pathology and mycology of fungus infections.

The deep or systemic mycoses constitute the major portion of this book. Each disease is taken up separately, discussed thoroughly, and illustrated with photographs of lesions and roentgenograms. The mycology section of each chapter discusses the appearance of the fungus in the clinical specimen and specific methods of isolation. Each organism is illustrated by photomicrographs. This portion of each chapter will be exceedingly useful as a reference for those laboratories which may be called upon to isolate and identify a pathogenic fungus. The chapters on the fundamentals of mycology and on the common contaminants will also prove helpful.

The chapters delegated to the fungus infections of the superficial layers of the skin are comparatively brief. No doubt many physicians would desire more detailed informa-

tion, especially in the section on differential diagnosis. Many fine photographs of lesions are included and there is an illustrated chapter on the mycology of the dermatophytes. The authors have made use of recent physiological studies on the dermatophytes which simplify classification considerably. A chapter on the immunology of the dermatomycoses will be of interest, especially for those physicians who see patients who have developed a hypersensitivity to their mycotic infection. An understanding of such "id" reactions is of great importance in the therapeutic regimen.

The bibliography, although not comprehensive, contains recent publications, especially those with full reference lists.

The appendix includes sections on mycologic culture methods, tissue staining techniques, immunologic methods and a formulary.

This book will satisfy the needs of physicians in all branches of medicine who desire the latest information concerning fungus infections. Its succinct presentation makes it a highly useful book, preferable to all others now available on the subject of fungus infection.

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ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEDICINE—Volume V. Windsor C. Cutting, Editor, Stanford University School of Medicine; and Henry W. Newman, Associate Editor, Stanford University School of Medicine. Annual Reviews, Inc., Stanford, Calif. 490 pages, \$7.00.

The Annual Review of Medicine, Vol. V, for 1954, continues their invaluable series of medical reviews. In general, one may criticize the mechanics of publication that necessitate the appearance in December 1954 of reviews, which finish with the literature of the fall of 1953, so that when a reviewer states that his chapter covers the literature from the beginning of 1952 to the present, he really means from the beginning of 1952 to September 1953.

Each section has an extensive bibliography, the largest perhaps being that devoted to endocrinology, which has 433 references; the most limited is that on anesthesia, with 57 references. One might also criticize the titles given to some chapters. The one headed *Radioactivity*, a field of great importance, especially if radioactive isotopes were considered, is limited to the effects of irradiation injury. The chapter, *Laboratory Aids to Diagnosis and Therapy*, an enormous, extremely important clinical subject, is actually confined to the phenomena of hemagglutination. And the chapter on hematology, *Diseases of the Reticuloendothelial System and Hematology*, is limited to an excellent review of hemorrhagic disorders.

With these limitations, the listing of the literature and the discussions of published work during the years 1952 and 1953 are very valuable. The section on infectious diseases, by Jawetz, and that on endocrinology by Soffer and Gabrilove are especially to be recommended.

The volume, as usual, concludes with the widely annotated list of reviews by MacKay, which certainly furnishes useful and immediate orientation in many fields.

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TEXTBOOK OF PEDIATRICS—Sixth Edition. Edited by Waldo E. Nelson, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Temple University School of Medicine. With the collaboration of seventy contributors. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1954. 1,581 pages, \$15.00.

The sixth edition of this standard pediatric text, formerly known to pediatricians as Mitchell-Nelson, is now under Nelson's name alone. This is a reasonable change, since Mitchell has now been dead 15 years, and little of the material prepared by him remains. A four-year interval has elapsed since the fifth edition, during which the many discoveries and developments in the field of childhood

medicine have occurred. It is therefore interesting to note that the present edition contains about 100 fewer pages than the last previous one, largely the result of deliberate and innocuous condensation. Like most modern standard medical texts, this is the work of a large number of collaborating specialists, some of them outside the area of pediatrics in its stricter sense. In the present edition these number 72, including the editor. In general, they have been carefully selected and are of a high grade of competence.

It is obviously impossible to offer a detailed critique of many separate articles. During the period since the volume has come to the reviewer's desk, he has made frequent references to specific topics and has as yet failed to find more than a very few not discussed. However, a few instances of incomplete coverage might be mentioned. Under diarrheal disorders, the important recent discovery of *E. coli* 0111 as a cause of epidemic diarrhea and its susceptibility to certain antibiotics are not mentioned. The convulsant effect of pyridoxine B₆ deficiency, which recently caused alarm in relation to a particularly proprietary milk-substitute is dealt with too cursorily. Under laboratory procedures in the diagnosis of rheumatic fever, antistreptolysin O and antihyaluronidase are not mentioned. The diagram of the major findings in poliomyelitis is incorrect in several respects. Furadantin is not mentioned in the section on antibiotics.

The majority of sections have been revised or completely rewritten. There are new sections on: selection of antimicrobial agents; isolation measures for infectious diseases; Cocksackie virus infections; cat-scratch fever; cytomegalic inclusion disease; toxocarasis and visceral larva migrans; pneumatoses intestinalis; cysts of the liver; pancreatic dysplasias simulating pancreatic fibrosis; metabolic disorders simulating rickets; the eyes of the newborn infant; sarcoidosis; and radiation injury. Chapters that have been completely rewritten include: the ear; diseases of the blood (with new classifications); the eye (with an excellent discussion of retrolental fibroplasia and fine colored photographs of the various stages); and neoplasms and other tumors.

The index is superb; I estimate that it now contains over 10,000 items, as compared with about half that number in the preceding edition.

This volume is a "must" for the up-to-date pediatrician's library.

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CLINICAL CHEMISTRY IN PRACTICAL MEDICINE—Fourth Edition. C. P. Stewart, D.Sc. (Dunelm), Ph.D. (Edin.), Reader in Clinical Chemistry; and D. M. Dunlop, B.A. (Oxon.), M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), Christison Professor of Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine, both from the University of Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., London, distributed by Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1954. 320 pages, \$5.00.

This is a practical volume which presents the everyday application of biochemistry in clinical medicine. It is not an elaborate text and does not attempt a comprehensive account of all laboratory tests but it does select those which the authors consider important, useful and reliable. These are detailed in a separate appendix.

The book has been revised rather thoroughly since the third edition was reviewed in 1949. The chapters and the subject matter are rearranged in more desirable sequence. The authors have the knack of writing with clarity and conciseness. (The chapter on collection and preservation of samples may be cited as an example of clear medical writing.)

Although this is a Scotch text, written primarily for local consumption, it can be recommended for consumption by practitioners and students generally.